

# Brooks' Airman wins Air Force award

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Discovery staff writer

Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Gladys Clas on being the recipient of the U.S. Air Force Personnel Manager Of The Year Award under the category of personnel specialist. Airman Clas was nominated for the PMOYA by her military personnel flight leadership who said that Airman Clas embodies the 21st century Airman as she continually sets the bar on standards of work ethic and is a role model to her peers. Originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., Airman Clas joined the Air Force two years ago and has since shown great focus and dedication to her career. She strives to attain the next level through team building, high standards and a lot of hard work. She has received numerous awards including the MPF "Extra Mile Award," "Professional Image Award" and Personnelist of the Quarter where she was selected above

22 other personnelists and peers. "In the beginning, I was working hard trying to do what I could for myself, and I had a really good supervisor at the time, Master Sgt. Currier," said Airman Clas when asked about her desire to succeed. "She really helped me along the way." Airman Clas' hard work is not only shown through awards, but by the extra time she puts into other activities. She selflessly volunteers her time to local organizations including the San Antonio, Southside Chamber of Commerce and Elf Louise. She has also dedicated her time to the remembrance and recognition of POW/MIA as she volunteered for a Silent Vigil event and also a Retiree Appreciation Day. Airman Clas initially joined the Air Force for the educational benefit and to serve the country but is finding great success as a Personnel Specialist. Her future plans are to attend American



Photo by Elizabeth Castillo  
Airman 1st Class Gladys Clas

InterContinental University, Ill., beginning Feb. 13, where she will be majoring in business administration. She owes her success to strong past and present leadership, co-workers, friends, family and God. The PMOYA is awarded to individuals who have made important contributions in a military personnel function. Airman Clas not only performs well at her job as an Airman, but as an outstanding person in the community as well.

# Project CHEER to sponsor Casino Night

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Discovery staff writer

Grab your hats and hold onto your chips as Vegas meets Brooks in a night of fun, games and gambling. As part of the Project CHEER initiative, Brooks City-Base will be hosting a Casino Night Feb. 24, in the Brooks Club. The evening will kick off with social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Gambling will begin at 6 p.m. and run until 9 p.m. with games including poker, craps and black jack.

The event is free of charge and all Brooks community members age 18 and above are welcome to join in on the festivities. Each person will receive \$1,000 in play money chips upon entry and winners will receive a ticket for every \$1,000 won. Tickets will be drawn in a raffle at the end of the evening for a chance to win prizes such as a televi-

sion, DVD player, wireless headphones, Blockbuster gift cards and a recliner, just to name a few. An Xbox game system and game will be awarded to a winning student with a GO card. The entire Brooks community is welcome to attend this event which will also offer a pay-as-you-go bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres to be served during social hour. Look for posters and flyers on base for any further details.

The initiative Project CHEER, which stands for Creating a Healthy Environment of Energy and Enthusiasm, is designed to provide weekly activities to increase interaction and create high-energy events for base personnel. "With the turmoil in the world today, this is a good way to bring everyone together in unity and have a good time," said Jan McMahon, publicist for the 311th Mission Support Group.



# AF Chief Master Sergeant launches inaugural edition of Airman handbook

by Master Sgt. Chuck Roberts  
Air Force Print News

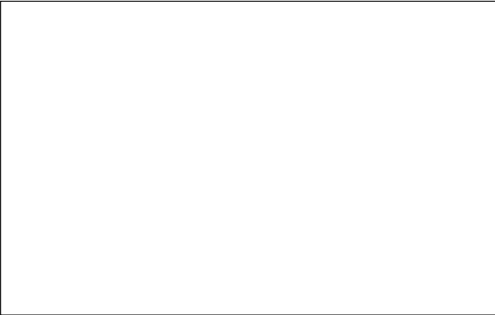
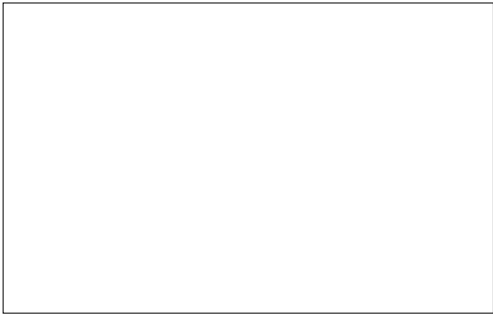
LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — If Airman Basic Rachel Redel ever forgets who presented her with one of the first two copies of Airman, Air Force Handbook 1, she can find the answer under "Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force," on Page 15, "Gerald R. Murray." If the 23-year-old basic trainee is curious about what her occupational badge will look like when she graduates basic training in a few weeks and later completes 27 weeks of technical training at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., she can check it out on Page 210 "Explosive Ordnance Disposal." That was the intent of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, who conceived the idea for a pocket-sized book offering new Air Force accessions — officers, enlisted, civilians — everything they need to know to pass "Air Force 101."

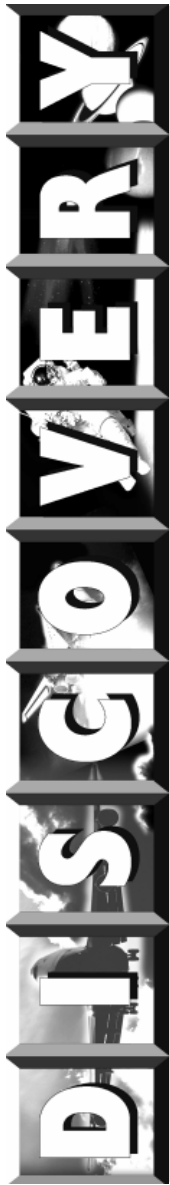
General Jumper's vision came to fruition Monday when Chief Murray, the Air Force's top enlisted Airman, dropped in on a classroom of basic trainees to personally present the first two copies to Airman Redel and Airman Basic Thomas Collins Jr. "You are the first in the Air Force to receive the new Airman handbook," Chief Murray told the gathering of basic trainees of the 326th Training Squadron in their fourth week of basic training. "I wish we'd had something like this when I started my career. It's really a foundation of what we do in the Air Force." The blue paperback handbook offers "big pictures" and little words to blend together the four pillars of the Air Force: character, honor, personal integrity and patriotism throughout its 360 pages. Chief Murray encouraged the basic trainees to use the handbook as a means of continually increasing their overall knowledge.

"The more you learn about this great Air Force, the more doors it opens up," he said. The handbook encompasses a broad expanse of military information broken into six sections, covering topics such as "Air Force Top 10 Aces," "Air Force Vocabulary," "CONOPS" and "Medal of Honor Recipients." The handbook falls under the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron at Randolph Air Force Base. Airman Redel said there is one thing she will not need the book for — to remember the surprise at being picked to receive her copy from Chief Murray. She had known for a few days that he would be making a guest appearance, but she did not find out until 10 minutes before his arrival that she would personally receive an autographed copy from him. "I feel very honored," said the Sierra Vista, Ariz., native.



Photo by Master Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez  
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray addresses Air Force trainees at Lackland Air Force Base before presenting each of them the new Airman handbook. The handbook covers heritage, national leaders, Air Force operations and a variety of military-related topics.





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## Mentoring: a truly rewarding experience

By Senior Master Sgt. Michael Walljasper  
311th Human Systems Wing

As Air Force and civilian members, we have all been briefed about the positive aspects of mentorship. Matter of fact, the Air Force places so much emphasis on this important aspect of professional development; they maintain a thirteen page AFI on mentoring. The Air Force defines an individual's supervisor as their default mentor. But did you know that anybody could become a mentor?

Local schools throughout San Antonio are always looking for role models to assist a few of their students. The assistance can come in the form of life skills or academics, or both. Students face challenges as they mature and some of them need an extra person to guide them in the right direction. I have been mentoring now for over 10 years on and off and can tell you wholeheartedly, it is a very rewarding experience.

Brooks' location in San Antonio makes us an ideal base to partner with the Southside Independent School District. Currently, we have a few mentors working with some grade school students at Southside ISD, but there is much more need. Rita Lassiter, Mentor Program Coordinator, has forged the relationship with Southside over the past 10 years and also with approximately seven different community schools and organizations. The Southside School Board recently recognized Ms. Lassiter for her outstanding efforts.

My job affords me the privilege to interact with most people assigned to Brooks. Without a doubt, from our youngest Airman to our newest Air Force civilian, I see role models who could make a difference in a young child's life. The pay back for your time and effort is ten-fold when you see a student achieve their goals.

If you can manage the time away from your busy schedule, I guarantee you'll find the experience very rewarding. To receive the Brooks guidelines and mentor orientation, please call Ms. Lassiter at 536-6379.

## Leadership: don't wait, take it

By Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin Harper Jr.  
379 Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, Southwest Asia

I was out the other day with some of the fine Airmen and one of them made the comment, "I can't wait until I get the opportunity to lead."

There are many things about leadership that I don't understand, but I do know you don't wait on it to come, you make it happen. In every forum in the last 10 years, I have heard the statement made that we have a shortage of good leadership at all levels. What makes a good leader and why is there a shortage?

Leadership involves constant preparation. Vince Lombardi, one of the greatest football coaches of all time, once said, "It is not the desire to win that is so important but rather the willingness to prepare."

So how do we prepare then, since we are all expected to lead in this deployed combat environment? Ret. Army Gen. Montgomery Meigs identified four characteristics that we might recognize as common in what we view as good leaders.

The first characteristic is intellect, from which we derive the elements of decision and execution — competence, intuition, and will. Good leaders read about good leaders. They are constantly searching and studying leaders and leadership styles from all walks of life. First they make sure they understand the goals of the mission. Then they search out proven and often innovative ways to get the job done. Here, we say "mission first," but it is understood it is people always. We make sure we and our people receive the best education and follow on training available, even in the deployed environment.

Take the maintenance group, for example. Do you think they can provide 40 percent of the airpower for this AOR with the oldest fleet ever in the history of the Air Force by luck or chance? No way, it takes dedicated leaders who ensure the combat maintainers have the best tools and training available. They ensure the troops are intellectually prepared to face the challenges of the daily maintenance mission.

The next characteristic is energy. Good leaders get around; they influence the daily "battles" with presence. They follow their e-mail with their feet! The very best of them have the uncanny ability to be at critical places at critical times. They get out from under the pressure of the calendar and focus on the human element of the organization.

I think the greatest similarity between motivational energy and depression is that they are both contagious. Good leaders get up and get ready. When they are with the troops they are motivated. As a leader, the organization feeds off you. It takes a lot of energy to keep this up which is why the Air Force places so much value on the new physical fitness program.

Let's look at the troops in the operations group for a minute. This dedicated group of men and women are

constantly flying. It may be a combat, refueling or humanitarian mission, or it may be carrying troops, but the mission is constant. The Airmen in the operations group give us a tangible demonstration of the kind of energy it takes to be a good leader. It is constant, focused and always available.

The third characteristic is selflessness. It is truly motivating to know that your leader is thinking about you first, isn't it? We have all seen this characteristic demonstrated time and time again. This allows good leaders to accept the best decision and not just their decision. This characteristic causes us to look "out" and not "in" to our own benefits.

Ranger school drove this point home early to me when it taught me that it is always about the soldiers; if you take care of them, they will take care of you. In Ranger school, you learn quickly that leaders eat last and sleep last (and a lot less). Anything to do with comfort, you as the leader are last in line. To define this characteristic in the wing look no farther than the support group. They demonstrate this on a daily basis.

The final characteristic is humanity. While humanity is essential to success for all of us, we most often think of the medical folks when speaking of humanity. Every customer they get never stops by unless he or she is not feeling well; yet, they always take care of us.

Even so, it is a demanding environment for all of us and mission accomplishment is critical to the AOR. Every day there is a risk of failure, and while we have the best of plans and training, the outcome is still in doubt until we actually execute the mission. The difference in victory and defeat often lies in the faith the troops have in the leadership and the combined perseverance to "hold the line."

To engender that faith, leaders must have a human touch and a feel for the troops. Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, says he would "rather talk than type." It is hard to relay humanity through email. It is hard to feel the temperature of the workplace or the distance to the bathroom from a Power Point presentation.

I have had several great lieutenant supervisors in my life that have really taught me some good lessons. Lieutenant Derry, my best lieutenant supervisor ever, was the kind of leader you would die for. He led us by example but he never put himself above any task. If we were wet, he was wet; if we were hot, he was hot. You get the picture. He was out there. He cared for us and it showed daily. "To lead you must know, and to know you must go," is a motto that the lieutenant exemplified.

Understanding the mission, maintaining the energy to see it through and caring about your troops are leadership qualities that each of us, regardless of our jobs, can do every day. So don't wait for the opportunity to lead, take it.



## Brooks celebrates Black Heritage Month

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Discovery staff writer

The opportunity to celebrate Black Heritage Month will be made possible at Brooks City-Base with many related activities throughout the month of February.

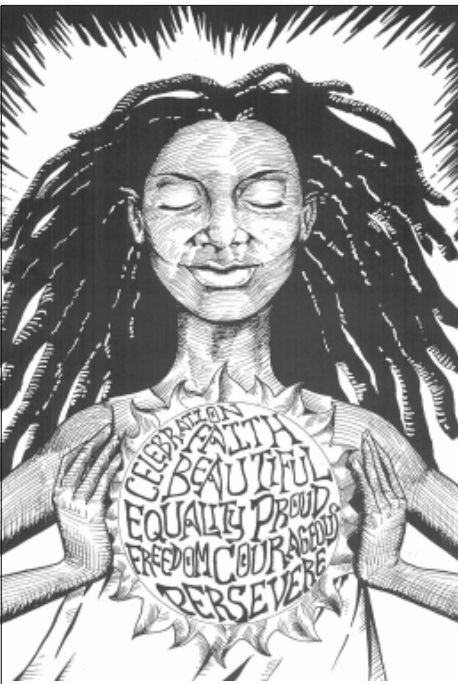
Black Heritage Month has been recognized annually since 1926 thanks to Dr. Carter Woodson and his study of black history. Finding that history books either completely ignored the African-American population or reflected them negatively in social positions, Dr. Woodson founded the Journal of Negro History.

The second week of February marks the birthday of two men who highly impacted the African American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. It is in their honor that Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February as “Negro History Week,” and now Black Heritage Month.

This year’s national theme is “The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn, 1905-2005,” which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Niagara Movement. The Niagara movement ex-

isted from 1905 to 1910, and was organized by African-Americans in order to fight racial discrimination in the United States.

Help in celebrating the achievements of those honored through the many activities offered in the Brooks community throughout February.



Artwork by Staff Sgt. Jack Vudtiyanon

### Black Heritage Month Activities at Brooks

- Feb. 7 - African American Read-in, 9:30 a.m. at Child Development Center
- Feb. 7 - African American Read-in, 3:30 p.m. at Youth Center
- Feb. 9 - Life Building Series, noon to 1 p.m. at Chapel
- Feb. 16 - Health Day, 6 to 8 a.m. at the Fitness Center
- Feb. 16 - Life Building Series, noon to 1 p.m. at Chapel
- Feb. 23 - Life Building Series, noon to 1 p.m. at Chapel
- Feb. 24 - Black History Luncheon, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Brooks Club

## Super Bowl goes super blue

by Master Sgt. David Byron  
Air Force Print News

An Air Force F/A-22 Raptor will be a highlight during pre-game festivities at Super Bowl XXXIX where the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles face each other Feb. 6.

The other military services will also take part, but Airmen will play a leading role in one of the nation’s premier sport competitions, this year being held in Jacksonville, Fla.

Super Bowl Sunday will begin with a series of pre-game concerts and a pre-game opening ceremony.

The pre-game ceremony of every Super Bowl has included the singing of the national anthem; this year the Air Force Academy’s 25-voice Cadet Chorale will team up with the Naval Academy Glee Club, West Point Choir and Coast Guard Academy to perform the anthem. It will be the first time all four service academies have performed together since former President Richard Nixon’s 1973 inauguration ceremony. The last time the Cadet Chorale sang at a Super Bowl was in 1972.

A joint color guard, which includes an Airman from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., will present the national colors.

At the conclusion of the anthem, two Raptors will team up with two Navy F-18 Super Hornets in a joint-formation flyover.

“What better way to showcase America’s newest super jet than in front of a stadium crowd of 80,000 fans and more than 144 million television viewers,” said Wendy Varhegyi, Air Force community relations chief.

Air Force involvement will not be limited to pre-game ceremonies.

Recruiters will be on-site to discuss career opportunities in the Air Force. They will have the “Cross Into the Blue” theater trailer along with several NFL athletes available for autograph sessions.

Recruiters have been on-site since Jan. 31 and will remain until the day after the game as co-sponsors of the ESPN Radio Remote/webcam at a Jacksonville-area hotel. Benefits include public-service announcements, on-air interviews, webcam time and on-site advertising. This is the third year Air Force Recruiting Service has sponsored the ESPN remote.

Five pilots from the 347th Rescue Wing at Moody will have a display as part of the series of events and displays surrounding the stadium.

Airmen will take part in another pre-game day activity with an emphasis on sports. They will be part of two joint-service teams competing in the NFL Alumni Super Bowl of Golf Showcase on Feb. 4.

Although most of the Air Force involvement will likely only be seen by those who attend the game, fans watching the game on television will get a glimpse of professional Airmen.

Six Airmen, along with four Marines took part in the filming of an Anheuser-Busch “Salute to the Military” commercial expected to air during the Super Bowl coverage.

Air Force volunteers will also help setup and tear down of the sets for the halftime performance featuring singing legend Paul McCartney.

In all, the Airmen will be among more than 2,000 military volunteers assisting with various aspects of the Super Bowl.



# USAFSAM support helps transform Cathedral Park

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The old saying “seeing is believing” was again validated recently when senior leaders from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine attended a multimedia presentation at Trinity University that chronicled Cathedral Park’s transformation as part of a USAFSAM student-supported habitat restoration project.

The Jan. 26 premiere of Trinity University student Tai-Shan Choo’s DVD presentation showcased the history of Cathedral Park and the on-going effort to restore it as one of San Antonio’s ecologically significant natural wonders. Located at the headwaters of the San Antonio River near Olmos Dam, Cathedral Park is being reclaimed as a vital semi-wetland after years of neglect.

“About 200 USAFSAM students per year work in the park as part of their community service project,” said Col. John Garland III, a master naturalist who is USAFSAM’s deputy chair for the International Expeditionary, Education and Training Department.

Since 2000, he and wife Mary Kay Stewart have spearheaded the Cathedral Park restoration work.

Students from USAFSAM’s aerospace medicine, bioenvironmental health and public health apprentice courses have for

years participated in two to three work days there each year. They have slowly helped transform this former horse pasture-turned dumping ground, owned since the 1950s by the Everett Holland Jones Episcopal Diocesan Center, into a modern-day Garden of Eden.

They have cleared brush and manmade debris there and helped line service roads with rocks to prevent erosion. Additionally, student work teams have turned excess vegetation into mulch for trail paths, planted seed for native Texas grasses and removed tree stumps and invasive non-native trees to help promote the growth of trees native to the area.

“We’re going to plant 15 American Sycamores and 50 Bald Cypress trees,” explains Col. Garland who co-developed with his wife the park’s master plan for restoration.

The couple envisions the park becoming a future education center promoting ecology management and preservation, as well as a bird sanctuary conducive for human contemplation and meditation. The park is in North America’s Central Flyway for migratory birds and is the temporary home to several species of water fowl. It’s also a botanical oasis for some rare plant species, including the Texas palmetto.

“The long range goal for the park is to develop a master plan,” says Col. Garland, refer-

ring specifically to the park’s numerous springs. In recent years, a high aquifer level has caused the park’s 10-11 springs to overflow. “The high water has changed the character of the park,” admits Col. Garland, who said a small bridge was recently built over a drainage ditch. Eventually, landscaping for the spring areas will be needed to define their boundaries. He said plans for spring habitat enhancement includes planting the right types of plants there that could thrive during both wet and dry seasons while helping promote water filtration.

While the design work will be the task of trained professionals, the heavy labor needed to fulfill park planners’ dreams has been consistently provided by students from USAFSAM. “They have dramatically changed the property’s landscape. The work they have done has transformed it,” confessed Col. Garland’s wife, who is a master gardener and the Cathedral Pak restoration project leader.

Referring to USAFSAM student support, Col. Garland noted, “They’ve taken part in a lifelong project that they can come back in the future and see the fruits of their labor.” He said the project has further strengthened the 311th Human Systems Wing’s relationship with San Antonio through this on-going community outreach that further validates the concept of “neighbors helping neighbors.”



Courtesy photo  
Students from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine take time from their community service project at Cathedral Park to pose for a group photograph.

## Officials launch healthcare program

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials are launching a new preventive health-care program called “Healthy Choices for Life,” the department’s senior medical adviser said..

The purpose of the Tricare-managed program is “to put information in the hands of individual servicemembers and family members so that they can change their behavior,” said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The program will focus on persuading people to quit smoking, moderate drinking habits, exercise and lose weight, he said.

Adopting more moderate health habits enables people “to avoid bad health outcomes and bad health

problems” like lung cancer, emphysema, liver and brain damage, diabetes, heart attacks and strokes, Dr. Winkenwerder said.

He said about \$13 million has been budgeted to fund pilot programs over the next few years. Some features of the pilot projects under consideration include toll-free smoking and drinking cessation phone lines and dedicated Web sites tout-ing healthier lifestyles, he said.

Dr. Winkenwerder said the program is envisioned as a DOD-wide and -managed endeavor rather than separate programs run by each armed service.

For more information, visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/healthychoices/](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/healthychoices/).

## A LOOK at BROOKS

How are you going to spend your Super Bowl Sunday?



Sandra Hernandez  
311th HSW/FM

Spending it with family and friends at home with good food refreshments and great company.



Ronnie King  
311th Mission Support Group

I'll be spending it at home, watching the game with the family.



Valerie Vasquez  
311th HSW/PA

I'll be at my boyfriend's uncle's house for a Super Bowl party.



David Schrantz  
311th HSW/MO

I am going over to my oldest son's house to watch the commercials with my granddaughter.



1st Lt. Dan Goldberg  
311th HSW/PA

I'll be dancing the cha-cha all over Philly when New England takes the Super Bowl.



# Free income tax assistance available

By 1st Lt. Rhea Lagano  
311th Human Systems Wing/JA

Brooks Legal Office offers a tax center to assist the Brooks community prepare and file their tax returns.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives from different organizations on base have received training from the IRS under the VITA Program and are prepared to offer basic assistance relating to personal income tax preparation. The tax center offers free electronic filing of federal tax returns. VITA representatives are also available to answer basic income tax questions and provide federal tax forms.

The tax center is located in Bldg. 643, and will offer services from Feb. 14 until April 15. The tax center will operate Mondays from 8 to 11 a.m., Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from noon to 3 p.m.

All active duty and retired personnel and their families may take advantage of the tax center by calling 536-3301 after Feb. 8 for an appointment. Scheduling priority will be given to active duty members and their families.

Individuals with appointments to file electronic tax returns must bring all W-2 Forms to the Tax Center. Filers may re-

ceive refunds by direct deposit if they also bring a routing transit number and account number. Please contact 1st Lt. Rhea Lagano or Staff Sgt John Parker at 536-3301 with any questions.

For those who want to file their own taxes, members of the tax software industry offer free tax preparation and electronic filing services through the IRS website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Once a particular company has been chosen, users will be directed to the company's commercial website.

It is very important for filers to go through the IRS website or they may be charged a fee. While preparing a free file tax return, the filer is under no obliga-

tion to buy other products and services offered by the company. All active duty military personnel are eligible for free filing services. All others will need the following information to determine eligibility for free services: age, adjusted gross income, state of residence, and all W-2 forms.

If after the filing process has begun, the company determines that the filer is not eligible for the company's free service and that he or she may be subject to a fee, the filer may return to the IRS website and review other companies' eligibility requirements or continue completing your return for a fee. For more information, go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on "Free File."

## Academy Cadets to sing at Super Bowl XXXIX

Air Force Academy cadets will join fellow service academy cadets to sing the national anthem to kick off Super Bowl XXXIX.

The 25-voice Cadet Chorale will join with cadets from the U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club, West Point Choir and U.S. Coast Guard Academy Choir to perform in Jacksonville, Fla., on Feb. 6.

This joint choir will perform in tribute

to World War II veterans, who will be honored at this event. Veterans from various units and organizations, including the Tuskegee Airmen, will be present.

This is the first time in 30 years that all four service academies will be singing together. The last time was in 1973 for President Nixon's inauguration. The last time the Cadet Chorale sang at a Super Bowl was in 1972.



**BASE CHAPEL**  
**536-3824**

### Special services:

Ash Wednesday — Feb. 9

11 a.m. — Ecumenical service  
4:30 p.m. — Catholic Mass with giving of the ashes

### Regular events:

Weekdays:

Mon. - Wed. — Eucharist  
11:30 a.m. — Thursday Mass

Wednesdays:

5:30 p.m. — Protestant choir rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Sunday services:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass  
10:30 a.m. — Interdenominational worship, includes children's church  
9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. — Catholic Religious Education



# “Warthog” readies for smart weapons

By 1st Lt. James Madeiros  
96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The newly designated A-10C Thunderbolt II “Warthog” achieved an historical milestone when the aircraft, modified with Precision Engagement technology, made its first flight at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 20, courtesy of the 46th Test Wing’s 40th Flight Test Squadron.

Precision Engagement technology also will allow the Air Force’s premier close air support aircraft to employ smart weapons such as Joint Direct Attack Munitions and Wind-Corrected Munitions Dispensers, which, in the previous model, could not.

“We have taken the world’s greatest close air support platform and made it even better

by adding a wide array of laser and global positioning system-aided munitions, the latest in targeting pods and the infrastructure to support data link,” said the pilot who made the first flight, Maj. Michael Rawls, 40th Flight Test Squadron.

The increased capability will allow the A-10C to accept more high-value target missions in addition to its primary mission as a close air support and forward air control aircraft.

It will notably guarantee an extension of the service life of the aircraft, as well.

Despite some speculation in years past, whether to retire the A-10 in full or in part the aircraft’s performance in recent conflicts, as well as its program enhancements, make it an invaluable part of the Air Force fleet.

“The A-10 provides a ground commander with a capability no other platform can in terms of survivability, loiter time and array of weapons,” Major Rawls said. “Bottom line, it means the ‘Hog’ is here to stay for awhile.”

To those who have seen an A-10, the new model looks identical from the outside, as the modifications are largely in the software and cockpit hardware. The appearance would be different, though, when loaded with a new array of munitions. The new capability will enable the A-10C to carry six smart munitions, with a standard load of four, Major Rawls said.

“The modification moved the center of gravity slightly forward in the aircraft, but it was not distinguishable,” he said. “The jet handled very well.”

The estimated \$300 million program has been a joint Air Force and industry effort that leaders believe will breathe yet more life into the 30-year-old aircraft.

“The longevity of the A-10 is due to its demonstrated utility on the battlefield,” said Col. Robert Nolan, 46th Test Wing commander. “We are moving the A-10 into the 21st century.”



Courtesy photo

The newly designed A-10C “Warthog” made it’s first flight at Eglin Air Force Base Jan. 20. The aircraft was modified with Precision Engagement technology, which will allow it to employ smart weapons.

# DOD sets CFC pledge record

WASHINGTON — Cigars and roses were just part of the thanks handed out here Feb. 1 by Combined Federal Campaign National Capital Area officials after Defense Department employees raised a record-setting \$14.9 million in pledges in the 2004 campaign.

The \$14.9 million figure far surpassed the campaign’s goal of \$12.1 million, and is \$1.8 million over the \$13.1 million collected a year ago, DOD campaign officials said.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who serves as CFC vice

chairman, called DOD’s participation “pretty impressive.”

“I am immensely proud of what this department has accomplished,” he said.

Mr. Wolfowitz said the record shows the DOD community is generous and committed to helping others.

“Wherever you look, whether it’s wearing the uniform or as civilian, you’ll find people with a strong sense of community, a strong sense of service, people who will pitch in to provide help,” he said.



BRIG. GEN. TOM TRAVIS  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play. If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**. Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
311th Mission Support Group—		Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Safety.....	536-2111	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	BXMarket.....	533-9079
Housing Office.....	533-5905	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base Marketing and	
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Development Office.....	536-5366

## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

### VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Mondays — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

A VA representative will be at Brooks weekly. Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records.

### SPONSOR TRAINING

Feb. 8 — 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

### SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Feb. 9 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are Pre-Separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

### SMOOTH MOVE

Feb. 15 — 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask YOUR questions! Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses. Overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

### COLLEGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Feb. 16 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Section 529 provides for a qualified tuition program that offers special benefits for those who wish to provide funds for a child's college education. One of the two types of plans under this program is the Prepaid Education Services Account. This account purchases tuition credits or certificates at today's current tuition rates for use in the future and can be state sponsored or sponsored by a private institution. The other type of plan is the Education Savings Account where contributions are established for meeting higher education expenses and is only state sponsored. Come to class and learn all the details to start funding your child's education.

### TAX SEMINAR

Feb. 22 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn about important tax changes for 2004 including new itemized deduction options, changes affecting retirement savings plans, and increased standardized deductions and exemption amounts.

### FEDERAL JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

Feb. 24 — 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn the ins and outs of navigating the Federal Job system. Bring your most recent resume and vacancy announcements or job advertisements you have found. Bring a list of courses you have completed in any recent college or other educational program. This workshop also includes a briefing from Civilian Personnel office.

### RESUME WORKSHOP

March 7 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Are you looking for a job? Learn the different resume styles and how to write and use them effectively to open career opportunities; learn the do's and don'ts of resume development; and as an added bonus, learn how to develop impressive cover and thank you letters.

### TRANSITION ASSISTANCE SEMINAR

March 8-10 — 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve those separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation resume writing, interviewing skills to include appropriate dress, veteran's benefits, and much more. One should attend at least 180 days prior to retirement/separation.

To register for class,  
Call 536-2444

### AIR FORCE AID SOCIETY

The Gen. Henry Arnold Education grant program awards \$1,500 grants to dependent sons and daughters of Air Force members and spouses of Air Force members. Use of fund is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses. This program is tailored for Air Force families with college students (rank does not disqualify you). Application deadline is March 11, 2005. Pick up your application at the Family Support Center or visit the website at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org) for an application or for more information.



## BROOKS OFFICER PROMOTIONS

### 4th Quarter 2004

#### Colonel Select —

Lt. Col. Steven Hetrick, USAFSAM

#### Lt. Colonel Selects —

Maj. Kathleen Jones, USAFSAM

Maj. Joseph Pendon, USAFSAM

Maj. Kelly West, USAFSAM

Maj. Johann Westphall, USAFSAM

Maj. Jill Feig, Air Force Medical Support Agency

#### Major Selects —

Capt. Alpa Desai, 311 Medical Squadron

Capt. Ronald Day, USAFSAM

Capt. Joseph Sky, USAFSAM

Capt. Alexander Tsang, USAFSAM

Capt. Lee Erickson, AFMSA

Capt. Roger Willis, AFMSA

#### Captain Selects —

1st Lt. Jason Bishop, 311th Human Systems Wing

1st Lt. Mehtap Kuykendall, 311 HSW

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SELECTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Research subjects needed

The Air Force Research Laboratory Biosciences and Protection Division is in need of active duty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 years and able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam to participate in several studies which help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month. For more information, contact Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258.

#### Counselor available for civilian employees

The Employee Assistance Program counselor is now at Brooks and available to civilian employees.

Although most everyone experiences personal problems, many people don't know where to go for help to solve them. The EAP counselor is prepared to help those in need deal with a multitude of problems, including emotional, relationship, family, substance abuse, financial or job concerns.

Beginning Feb. 7, every Monday through April 4, Dr. John Draude will be on base to provide counseling to DoD civilians and their family members. Call 536-2202 now to schedule an appointment. EAP services are free and confidential.

#### Sergeants Association

The Brooks chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association meets the second Tuesday of every month. The meeting is at 3 p.m. at Sidney's

Grill. Council elections will be held Feb. 8.

#### Top 3 Association

The Brooks Top 3 Association meets the third Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is Feb 16 at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Mike Middleton, Top 3 president, at 536-1958.

#### Employee rights of representation

A labor organization which represents civilian employees must be given the opportunity to be represented at any examination of an employee in the bargaining unit by a management representative in connection with an investigation if the employee reasonably believes the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee, and the employee requests representation.

#### NCOA job fair

The Non-Commissioned Officers Association is sponsoring a job fair in San Antonio on Feb. 16 at the Live Oak Civic Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This job fair targets transitioning military personnel, but is also open to the public. It's a great resource for military personnel who are either retired or separating from the military and is provided as a free service to job seekers by the NCOA. There will be around 60 companies in attendance.

#### Promotion process video

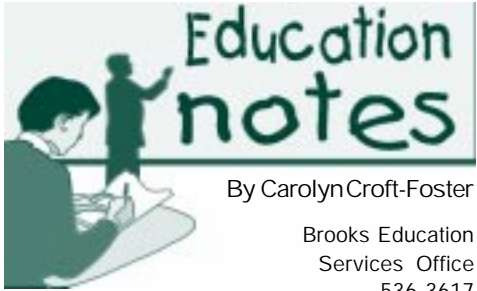
The Air Force has produced a 20-minute video explaining the promotion process for the top two enlisted grades. The video is available for viewing on the Air Force Portal under the "AF Home." The video explains the entire board process, including board make up and scoring procedure.

## ENLISTED PROMOTEES



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

More than Brooks City-Base enlisted Airmen were recognized at a Jan. 31 promotion ceremony at the Brooks Club. Congratulations to all the recent promotees.



**The National Graduate School of Quality Management**

The National Graduate School is now accepting applications for a master’s program scheduled to begin in March. Classes will be held one night a week from 6 to 10 p.m. at Fort Sam Houston. Students will earn a degree in quality systems management. The Master’s Business Project replaces a required thesis. The institution is regionally accredited, nationally recognized and eligible for VA/TA benefits. A representative visits Brooks City-Base Wednesdays. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

**Tuition assistance through AFVEC**

Air Force members at Brooks City-Base preparing to register for college courses and request Air Force tuition assistance are encouraged to apply on-line using the Air Force Virtual Education Center. Air Force members will no longer need to access the Brooks home page to apply for tuition assistance, but can accomplish this request directly through AFVEC.

AFVEC is the Air Force’s premier site for providing information about educational information and benefits. The purpose of this site is to provide students one-stop-shopping for all higher education needs. In addition to the on-line TA request, AFVEC offers a wide array of on-line services to empower the student to actively participate in all aspects of their education. These services are

offered to encourage progress of each educational endeavor the student chooses to participate in; whether it is requesting tuition assistance, working towards their Community College of the Air Force degree or applying for commissioning.

Individuals may access AFVEC directly through the web site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or through a link on the Air Force portal. Members will be required to logon to “My AFVEC” by entering their email address and password. New users will be required to create an account. Once in “My AFVEC,” members should click “Request TA” to begin the process of requesting tuition assistance.

Members will be required to know and enter basic course registration information in the on-line TA request. They must know, among other things, the school’s exact term start and end dates, course code, course title and cost per semester or quarter hour. Once the member has entered and reviewed the TA request information, the request will be forwarded electronically to the education center for final review and approval. The member will be notified via email and through AFVEC when the request is approved.

**Texas State University**

Texas State University offers a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry, and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 536-3618.

**Palo Alto College registration**

Palo Alto College will be offering courses on base for the spring flex 1 flex 2 semesters. The courses apply to the Community College of the Air Force degree and to civilian degrees as well. The first term begins Jan. 10 and ends March 3. Spring Flex 1 courses include college algebra, art appreciation, government and speech. The representative is available at Brooks on Tuesday mornings to assist students. Please call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

**St. Mary’s University**

St. Mary’s University has a graduate school representative at the Education Office every Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. St. Mary’s offers 24 graduate programs, including business administration, computer information systems, industrial and clinical psychology, engineering systems and international relations.

St. Mary’s also offers post-baccalaureate initial teacher certification for Texas. For qualified individuals, St. Mary’s graduate school offers a partial tuition grant. Additional information can be obtained by scheduling an appointment with the St. Mary’s representative through the Brooks Education Office.

**Montgomery GI Bill participants can increase benefits**

Active duty personnel, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400 — from \$23,400 to \$28,800 — for a maximum contribution of \$600. For more information, call 536-3618.

**Upper Iowa on base and online**

Register now for Upper Iowa University – Distance Learning. Courses are available in business and public administration. Online and correspondence courses are also available in other majors. The Upper Iowa Univer-

sity office in the Brooks Education Center is open Monday through Friday. The coordinator also holds advising hours at Lackland on Thursdays. For more information, visit the website at [www.uiu.edu](http://www.uiu.edu), stop by the Brooks office, Bldg. 558, or call 536-4033.

**Discover Program online**

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information or to schedule an appointment to review the website and get started, call 536-3617.

**Spouses to Teachers Program**

The Department of Defense tasked Dantes to develop and manage a new pilot program to help spouses begin careers as teachers. The Spouses to Teachers Program has launched in six states with a large military population and a need for public school teachers, including Texas.

All eligible spouses who wish to become teachers may receive assistance from the Spouses to Teachers Program. This includes spouses who have already earned a baccalaureate degree or higher, as well as spouses who are at the undergraduate level. Degreed spouses will be counseled on their options for achieving certification and information on potential funding sources and employment opportunities.

Non-degree holders will receive help in identifying degree completion programs, as well as information about possible financial assistance, both state and federal, and the potential for finding employment as teacher’s aides or other positions in public schools. To take advantage of this program, spouses may contact the Texas pilot office at 1-800-815-5484.

[Carolyn.Croft-Foster@brooks.af.mil](mailto:Carolyn.Croft-Foster@brooks.af.mil)



# Quarterly Award Winners — Fourth Quarter

## MILITARY WINNERS:



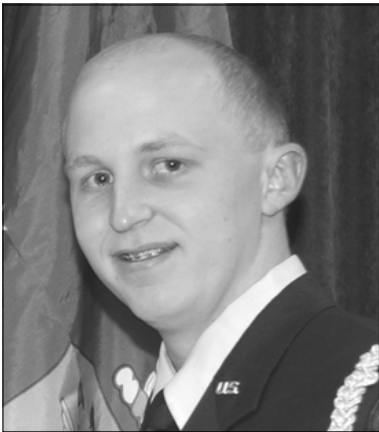
NCO of the Quarter  
Master Sgt.  
Donald Fluhr  
AFIOH



SNCO of the Quarter  
Master Sgt.  
Michael Alberthal  
USAFSAM



CGO of the Quarter  
Capt. William Holl  
311th HSW



Honor Guard  
Airman 1st Class  
Justin McGee  
68th IOS

The quarterly winners for the fourth quarter awards were recognized at a ceremony on Jan. 27 at the Brooks Club. Col. Laura Alvarado, vice commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing, presented the winners with their awards.

Not Pictured:  
Airman of the Quarter  
Sr Airman Antonio Cruz  
AFIOH

GS-12 through GS-13  
Benjamin Kindt  
AFIOH

Student Aide  
Jose Tijerino  
311th HSW

## CIVILIAN WINNERS:



GS-03 through GS-05  
Pablo Segura  
311th MSG



GS-06 through GS-08  
Linda Lopez  
311th HSW



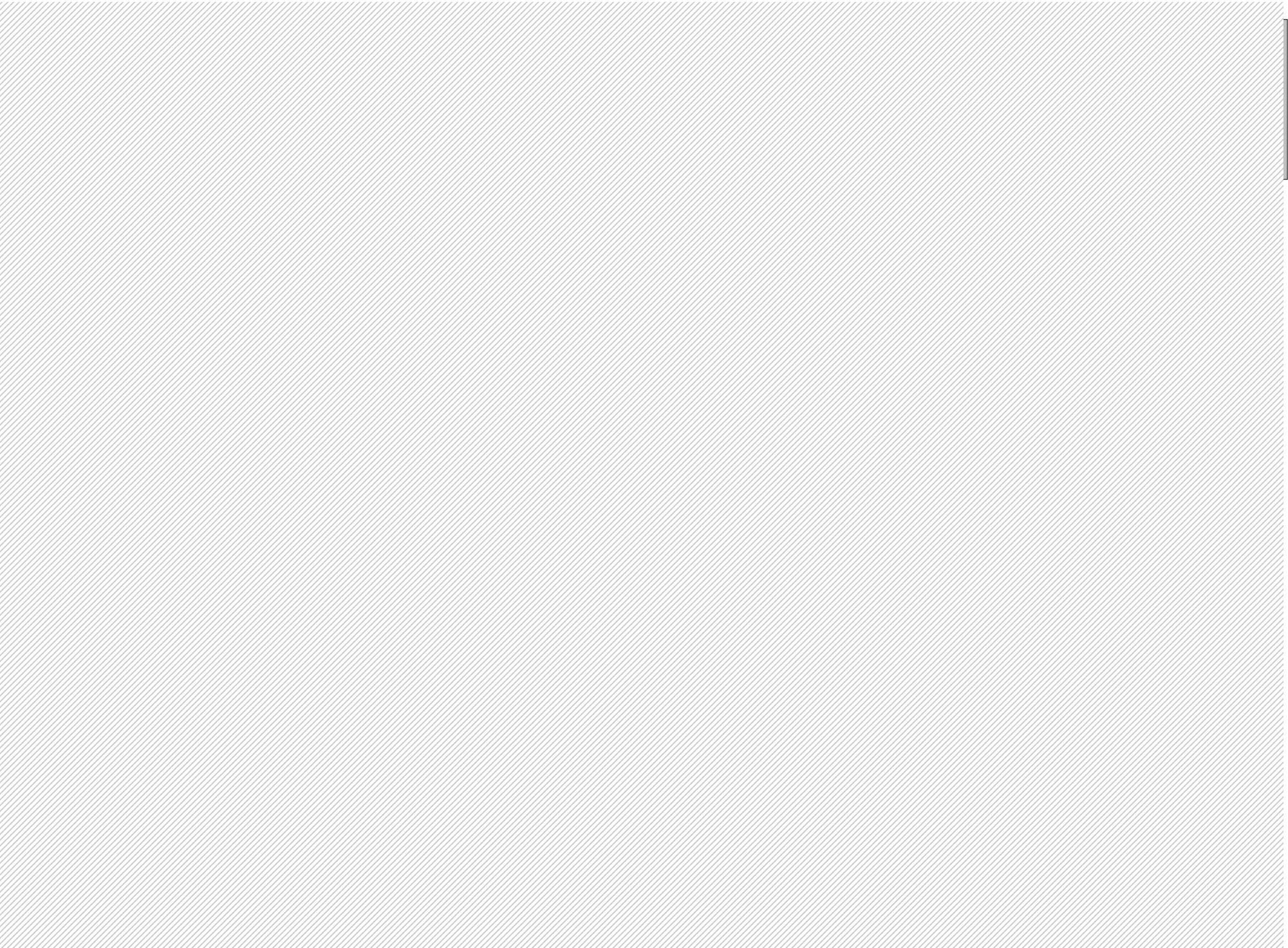
GS-09 through GS-12  
Roger Morales  
311th HSW



NAF Manager  
Jose Valadez  
311th MSG



NAF Technician  
Dennis Chapoy  
311th MSG





# Multimedia Center to host conference

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks Multimedia Center is hosting an inaugural conference here Feb. 17 designed to better serve customer needs and fulfill core Air Force missions as part of its initiative to streamline operations.

The half-day event, whose theme is “Partnering with Air Force Missions,” will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine’s Building 775 in rooms 145/146. Commanders, directors or their senior military or civilian representatives from all base organizations are invited to participate in this first-of-its-kind workshop.

“In order for us to provide the services our customers need, we have to understand their core missions. This conference is an opportunity to interact with our customers on a personal level to explore their mission needs,” said Master Sgt. David Riggs, Brooks Multimedia manager.

The conference will also showcase multimedia capabilities. Sergeant Riggs explains, “It also gives us the opportunity to describe our capabilities and to show our customers what we can do for them. We want to focus on the positive value and services we bring to the Brooks community.”

The impetus for the conference is to address issues affecting customers as the Multimedia Center facilitates an internal transformation. “This conference is being held in conjunction with our own transformation from being a sup-

port mission-oriented organization to an operational mission-oriented organization. Too often Multimedia is an after-thought of a process instead of being part of the (customer’s) process. By partnering with our customers, we can provide more relevancy and value for their operational missions,” Sergeant Riggs said.

The event also marks a major shift in how this 311th Communications Squadron organization does business in terms of basewide support. For most of its history, Multimedia’s priority has been to provide service to its parent organization. This initial focus began when it was part of USAFSAM shortly after the school moved here from Randolph AFB in 1959. While it has provided service to other base customers since then, Multimedia’s evolution into a traditional base center for graphics, photo and telecommunications support was not fully realized until 2000 when it was transferred from the Air Force Research Laboratory to the 311th Human Systems Wing.

“This conference is our first step in sharing Multimedia’s strategies as an operational partner with base customers. We hope this event will foster better understanding and co-operation between Multimedia and our customers,” Sergeant Riggs said. The event is also designed to reduce customer frustration related to support. The Multimedia manager explains, “I equate Multimedia with building a house. You have to have a blueprint and a reasonable timeline to complete projects. Without written requirements, we don’t know customers’ needs and expectations.”

Graphic by Staff Sgt. Jack Vudtiyanon





Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE



# Frenzied pace keeps sports director jumping

By Kendahl Johnson  
Discovery editor

Some people talk the talk, while others walk the walk. For Brooks youth sports director Larry Flores, it's about getting the job done. His unwavering commitment to providing athletic opportunities for youth leaves little time for words and just enough time for action.

For more than a decade, Brooks Fitness Center's youth sports director has sacrificed countless hours of sleep and much time away from an understanding and supportive family to manage a highly successful youth sports program.

"It's hard sometimes because of all the hours I put into the job," Mr. Flores said. "Fortunately, my wife is very supportive."

On most weekends, he can be seen scampering around the base's athletic venues, paying attention to the small details that make his programs successful.

"I like to make it nice, especially for the kids. I want them to be recognized," said Mr. Flores. The "nice" part to which he refers translates into picking up trash and debris to get playing fields ready, hauling and setting up equipment, creating league and post-season schedules, issuing uniforms, recruiting and providing training for players, coaches and parent volunteers and spending more time on the phone than telemarketers while coordinating an endless number of sports-related activities. He also schedules team photo sessions and organizes postseason sports awards banquets and picnics, writes newspaper copy for event and promotions and arranges for event concessions and awards.

As much as he enjoys sports, he never got an opportunity to participate in athletics until after he enlisted in the Air Force. "It was too far to walk home if I had stayed after school to participate in sports," said Mr. Flores, who lived on a farm about 12 miles from Floresville. The youngest of seven

children, he was born in 1953. His father was a professional bricklayer and his mother a homemaker. He joined the Air Force after graduating from Floresville High School in 1972.

He decided to join the Air Force, giving him a options other than farming. His military career was law enforcement, with his first assignment at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas. From there, he went to the Phillipines, followed by a stint at Altus AFB, Okla. In 1978, he came to Brooks for the first time. After three years here, he left for a tour in Germany. He then returned to Brooks in 1985. He was able to stay here for a longer-than-normal duration thanks to a six-month remote tour in Egypt.

In 1994, the part-time youth sports director position opened up at the youth center. Mr. Flores was already heavily involved with the youth, working as a coach for his son's baseball team. Because he had developed a reputation as a dependable youth sports volunteer, he was offered the job. He decided to accept. "I figured, I am here all the time anyway, I might as well get paid for it," he said.

When the former master sergeant retired from the Air Force in 1996 after a 24-year career, he took over the youth program full-time as a Non-Appropriated Fund employee.

He attributes a lot of his current success to his military background. Enlisting in the Air Force gave him a chance to play Air Force intramural sports. He specialized in softball, a sport he also promoted during the last 10 years of his career when he helped organize the National Police Week softball tournament. That tourney gave Flores both the experience and motivation to stage future special events. Additionally, his career helped sharpen his interpersonal skills.

"Working in law enforcement helped me learn how to deal with people," he said. "It has helped me in this job because you are continually dealing with parents, coaches and kids. Dealing with so many different people can be difficult at times."

Currently, Mr. Flores is involved with youth basketball. He is responsible for the organization of a 14-team league, with more than 120 youth participants. Next, he will organize baseball, followed by swimming then football. Then basketball starts again.

"We have sports going year round," he said. "You get into a routine. I thought I might get burned out on it but it's different every season. The parents and kids keep me going." He also knows the importance of coaches and is grateful to be working with many terrific volunteers. "Coaches make a big difference in their lives," he said. "They are the role models. The coaches are all volunteers and without volunteers, you wouldn't have program."

Mr. Flores has introduced numerous special events to the Brooks youth sports program include Operation Nite Hoops; the National Youth Games that features swimming, basketball, soccer and track and field; the Kids Sports Network Basketball Jamboree; baseball Hit-A-Thon and "Hot Shot" two-ball basketball. He also came up with the idea of "Kids Helping Kids" (see related story page 16), where his teams are teaming up with the NBA and WBNA to help raise money for the victims of the tsunami disaster.

The most memorable event he helped arrange was a special ceremony in 2000 that involved former 311th Human Systems Wing commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd. For the only time in Brooks sports history, a player's jersey was retired. The event honored 14-year-old Charles "Moose" Dickinson III who was killed by a hit-and-run driver walking home from school. Dodd presented the jersey to the boy's parents at halftime during homecoming for their son's former senior tackle football team — the Brooks Eagles.

Amazingly, Mr. Flores' rigorous schedule and long hours doesn't seem to get him down, mainly because he enjoys what he does. He said he feels he is making a difference with the young boys and girls he works we and that providing opportunities for youth helps keep them busy and out of trouble. "When dealing with youth, every positive thing you do helps make a difference in their lives," he said.

Rudy Purificato contributed to this article



FLORES



FULL NAME:  
Larry Flores

DUTY TITLE,  
ORGANIZATION:  
Youth Sports Director  
311th Mission Support Group,  
Services Division

IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO?:  
Oversee all sports programs for  
Brooks Youth Services for  
children  
ages five to 17

BIRTHDAY:  
August 14, 1953

HOMETOWN:  
Floresville, TX

FAMILY STATUS:  
Married to wife, Frances;  
daughter Jennifer and son David  
and two stepchildren, Lisa and  
Ernest

PERSONAL MOTTO:  
"When tackling a job, give it your  
best to accomplish the end  
result"

PET PEEVE:  
Being on time for work

INSPIRATIONS:  
My wife for being understanding  
of the number of hours I spend at  
my job

HOBBIES:  
Watching the San Antonio Spurs  
and the Dallas Cowboys

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:  
Obtain a permanent GS position

ULTIMATE GOAL:  
Retire from civil service and enjoy  
retirement with my wife

IF I WON THE LOTTERY:  
I would help our children through  
college and build a new home  
on our property

MY GREATEST  
ACCOMPLISHMENT:  
Retiring from the military after 24  
years as a law enforcement  
specialist



# Aeromedical Library leaves no customer 'in a bind' for service

(Editor's note: This concluding feature of a two-part series focuses on the important contributions the Air Force Research Laboratory's Aeromedical Library continues to provide Air Force customers worldwide that fulfills its on-going mission to sustain and enhance aeromedical and aerospace research, education and warfighter support.)

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The Aeromedical Library's value to the Air Force is defined by its collection and the staff that manages it. Its significance as an institution is linked to its continually evolving holdings and timely initiatives that have become the very life's blood of Air Force medicine.

Within its vast inventory of books, technical journals and research papers is critically important data needed by researchers, flight surgeons and anyone searching its shelves or computer databases for information that leverages knowledge from the ever-expanding spectrum of scientific disciplines.

As the only Air Force library dedicated to aerospace medicine, the staff at this Air Force Research Laboratory library is committed to never leaving any customer 'in a bind' for service. To that end, they have steadfastly worked to continually enhance the library's specialized collections while also implementing a series of initiatives designed to respond quickly, efficiently and effectively to support customer needs.

"We serve people in an agile way, on the same day, even on the other side of the globe," said Joe Franzello, chief

librarian. From Brooks investigators to Air Force customers worldwide, Franzello's staff leaves no page unturned to provide services ranging from literature searches to links for sources of information on-line.

One of the library's more important initiatives was the establishment in 2002 of the Flight Surgeon's Reference Desk. This service is designed to aid Air Force medical professionals involved in operational medical support to aircrews worldwide.

**We serve people in an agile way, on the same day, even on the other side of the globe**

Joe Franzello  
Chief librarian

"The Reference Desk brings to the physician working flightline issues the library's expertise and extensive resources in aerospace medicine," Mr. Franzello said. "A flight surgeon, flight nurse or aerospace physiologist can consult

by telephone or e-mail with a trained librarian capable of providing a customized literature search via e-mail."

Where appropriate, PDF attachments are also provided on topics in aerospace medicine and related disciplines such as aerospace psychology, aerospace physiology and human factors issues in aviation, Mr. Franzello noted, adding that this service complements previous initiatives made by the Air Force Medical Service Agency that supports development of the AFMS Knowledge Center.

Managing assets from this unique repository, considered to be "the library of last resort in aerospace medicine," is contingent upon the staff's response to customer trends. "We see changes in trends of customer interests and adapt to it," Mr. Franzello said. The most recent and profound shift in customer trends they've observed is turn-around time in research. "Customers want information immediately to solve problems and devise solutions. The speed of need for information has accelerated," the chief librarian says. In the past, the library staff had a longer lead time to respond to customer requests.

Another important library initiative launched in 2002 illustrates the staff's commitment to serving the needs of Air Force professionals worldwide no matter how small the group of investigators. Called the Kadena Project, a handful



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Joe Franzello, chief librarian for the Aeromedical Library, displays a special book press used in preservation techniques by a former colleague, the late Paul Oshieke, who passed away last year.

of bioenvironmental engineers and occupational health physicians stationed at Kadena Air Base, Japan and other places throughout the Pacific benefited from electronic access to the 150-volume CRC collection acquired by the Aeromedical Library.

"This collection is the environmental science and occupational health book. The impetus for us doing this was to provide them with a collection that is continually updated and made available (via computer) at their job site," Mr. Franzello said.

This customer outreach is consistent with the library's business approach to customer service by providing cost effective ways to support the warfighter.

"We want to complement what existing sources of information investigators have," said Mr. Franzello. His staff accomplishes this through phone, e-mail and interlibrary loan requests. Last year, interlibrary loan requests accounted for an estimated 16,000 to 20,000 transactions, while documents provided to other libraries numbered between 8,000 and 9,000.

They also have made great strides in shaping the collection to meet the needs of today's customers. "Good collection development is knowing your customers," said Mr. Franzello. To do this effectively, the library staff monitors literature trends and has tracked cited references in their databases from 1986 to the present.

"We track how often journals are borrowed by our users. No other library in the DOD

does this," Mr. Franzello said. This process provides customer data used to further shape the collection.

"We shape the collection to meet the needs of the present population of investigators," the chief librarian said. Early Air Force investigators were interested in cognitive science, mathematics and elements of classical psychology, Mr. Franzello noted. The current trend within medical science involves a molecular, rather than clinical, approach to problems, he explained. Investigators' interests in new scientific areas such as proteomics, a sub-class of microbiology, and genomics has further shaped the library's collection.

The library also exists as a resource for major institutions, including the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. Featured in the library's historical collection is the Residency in Aerospace Medicine papers culled from the USAFSAM Registrar's student files.

"We're indebted to Col. William Butler, Senior RAM Class of 2001, who collected these papers. From 1959-1999 this library published and edited these papers. These are major RAM papers that address clinical issues in aerospace medicine," Mr. Franzello said.



Chief librarian Joe Franzello periodically inspects the condition of technical journals more than 100 years old. They are housed in a special section of the Aeromedical Library.



Book restoration and repair is one of the many services conducted at the Aerospace Library to preserve collections.



# Female athlete of the year helps promote Brooks sports

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

It was what she did on the sidelines to help promote Brooks sports, rather than her athletic prowess, that was the determining factor leading Brooks Fitness Center officials to select 1st Lt. Erica Lindstrand as the base's female athlete of the year for 2004.

Roy Conatzer, Brooks Fitness Center director, resurrected the athlete of the year program after a four-year hiatus. The base's highest sports honor recognizes the contributions of a female and male athlete each year whose performances on and off the playing field significantly enhanced the sports program.

Lieutenant Lindstrand, an Aeromedical Evacuation Division acquisition program manager for the newly renamed Human Systems Group (formerly 311th Human Systems Program Office), helped redefine criteria used to measure base sports contributions.

"It's a real honor. They've expanded the old definition of athletes' contributions," says Lieutenant Lindstrand whose sports legacy at Brooks is defined by the physical conditioning activities she has introduced here.

Motivated by a desire to help others improve physically while also having fun, this 26-year-old Edmonds, Wash., native is responsible for organizing several new sports activities at Brooks. Among them



Photo by Rudy Purificato

1st Lt. Erica Lindstrand (left) encourages competitors during the cycling event of the Brooks triathlon. Lieutenant Lindstrand was selected as Brooks City-Base's female athlete of the year for her contributions in promoting the base's athletic programs.

was an aerobathon that helped raise food and toy donations for the Brooks Cares program, power cycling classes and the base's first 'sprint triathlon,' featuring a modified format of short-distance swimming and running and stationary cycling.

"I'm not good at most sports, but I try other things to help widen the spectrum of physical conditioning," she said. Those 'other things' have in the past included volunteering as an aerobics instructor here and at other bases.

The eldest of three children born to Norm and Linda Lindstrand, the future Air Force officer played soccer and tennis as a youth growing up in the Cascades of the Pacific northwest. Her high school sports career, however, was shortlived.

"The last two years of high school I also attended college as part of the 'Running Start' program," she said.

At age 16, she graduated from high school while also earning an associate's degree in arts and sciences from Everett

Community College in 1996. The following January, she enlisted in the Air Force.

"I was a guidance and control avionics technician," she said of her initial Air Force occupation. While working on B-52s at Barksdale AFB, La., she played soccer for the 11th Bomb Squadron while also volunteering as a base aerobics instructor. She was honored as "Volunteer of the Quarter" there, primarily for teaching five aerobics classes a week. Just 5-foot-4, she nevertheless cast a long shadow in sports at Osan Air Base, South Korea, where she worked on U-2s.

"I came up with the idea for an aerobathon there in 2000," she said. The four-hour event, held on the base tennis courts, was held primarily to support Air Force Fitness Month. More important to her, the aerobathon was part of a personal philosophy to encourage physical conditioning while also having fun.

After earning an Air Force commission through Central Washington University in 2002 upon completion of a bachelor of science degree in exercise science, Lieutenant Lindstrand was eventually assigned to Brooks in February 2003. She immediately forged a partnership with the fitness center staff who she credits for helping her organize new sports events here. "They've been very supportive," she says of the staff who encourages new ideas. "It's been very rewarding to see a lot of people having a good time while being physically active."

## Brooks youth hoopsters to raise funds for tsunami disaster relief

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks youth basketball players will join other young athletes from military bases throughout America on Feb. 5 to raise money for UNICEF's Tsunami Relief. This United Nations charitable organization will donate funds to help pay for food, water, medicine and other supplies for survivors of the December 2004 earthquake-induced tsunami that killed more than 165,000 people in nine countries within the Indian Ocean region.

"It's the first time we've done something like this. We're calling it 'Kids Helping Kids'," said Larry Flores, Brooks Youth Sports director. Flores is staging the fundraiser in response to a request from the Junior Military League jointly sponsored by the NBA and WNBA.

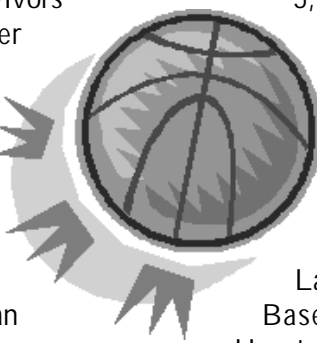
"They suggested we do something within our programs. We are asking parents to donate a dollar for every point their child scores in a game on

Feb. 5. If a parent can't afford to do this, we'll ask the team to help financially," Flores said.

While youth hoopsters, historically, don't score a lot of points, potentially Brooks youth basketball could raise a hefty sum. "We have about 140 (youth basketball) players on 14 teams. Nearly 100 percent of those teams will be playing regular season games on Feb. 5," Flores said.

Money raised here will be pooled with funds collected during youth basketball games at Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases and Fort Sam Houston, Flores said. Collectively, those three bases have about 100 youth basketball teams, the majority of them competing on the designated night.

Flores said the only other time Brooks youth sports participated in a humanitarian relief effort was several years ago when San Antonio experienced a great flood. Texas Youth Football teams at Brooks helped collect donated food and clothing, Flores said.



## Air Force box-offs showcase lean, mean card

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The 2005 U.S. Air Force Boxing Championship, known as the box-offs, was on the ropes before the first punch was thrown here Jan. 22.

Global operations reduced this year's boxing trial camp to just 10 available fighters, down two-thirds from 2004.

Seven bouts were on the card, which was unofficially billed as the Air Force versus San Antonio since five fights pitted Airmen against boxers from various local boxing clubs.

A near-capacity partisan crowd roared its approval of the victorious amateur debut of heavyweight Staff Sgt. Melvin Allick, who won on a retirement 31 seconds into the second round.

"Since this was my first fight, I was nervous but not scared," said Sergeant Allick, who is from Lackland. "My background gave me a mental advantage in camp and in the ring."

Airman 1st Class Hector Ramos, two-time Armed Forces lightweight champion from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., withstood early body shots to handily win his light welterweight debut.

"I feel a lot stronger and healthier at 141 pounds than at 132," said Airman Ramos, who confidently predicted his third armed forces title.



Photo by Alan Boedeker

Senior Airman Ramon Castro delivers a straight right hand to Senior Airman Michael Walker from Minot Air Force Base, N.D. Airman Castro, from Hurlburt Field, Fla., captured the 152-pound welterweight title.

In other bouts, Senior Airman Ramon Castro of Hurlburt Field, Fla., used effective left-right combinations to take the welterweight class over Senior Airman Michael Walker of Minot AFB, N.D., while 1st Lt. Aaron Banks from Kirtland AFB, N.M., took a close middleweight decision over Senior Airman Roger Seward from Youngstown Joint Air Reserve Station, Ohio.

Senior Airman Richard Mora of Tinker AFB, Okla., weathered an early flurry in the opening round to claim the lightweight class.

In unopposed classes, Senior Airman Carlos Casasola from

Nellis AFB, Nev., won the featherweight medal, and Senior Airman Celsa Reyes of F. E. Warren AFB, Wyo., claimed female honors.

The Air Force next targets the Armed Forces Boxing Championships from Feb. 15 to 20 at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where Airmen are looking for their first team title since 1975.

"I was pleased with the guys' progress and work ethic, so we'll focus on conditioning to prepare for the armed forces (matches)," said Air Force boxing team head coach Staff Sgt. Eddie Rivas from McChord AFB, Wash.



# Brooks judo expert willing to help others learn sport



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Brooks Fitness Center director Roy Conatzer pages through his judo book used in years past when he was an Air Force judo instructor. As a first degree black belt, he kept meticulous notes about the sport's techniques applied during self-defense training.

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

An era has passed in Air Force sports since Roy Conatzer was actively involved in teaching young men and women the intricacies of the Japanese self-defense fighting system known as judo. However, when he recently learned that the local YMCA was offering free judo instruction to active duty military personnel, the competitive spirit that had previously motivated him to share his knowledge in this ancient martial art was rekindled.

This kind-hearted 60-something director of the Brooks Fitness Center no longer teaches judo and seldom tells people about how he became an Air Force judo instructor. However, he is willing now to offer his guidance and knowledge as a first degree black belt to anyone at Brooks interested in learning what the Japanese call "the gentle way."

"I still can break boards," he mused while reveling in memories of the days when he put on demonstrations to showcase judo techniques involving timing, balance and most of all, flexibility.

He remembers an incident during a judo class at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. where he 'demolished' a cement block with a hand blow. "It was weathered and about to crumble," he said.

This anecdote illustrates what martial artists rely on: keen observation of an opponent or obstacle before applying defensive or offensive techniques.

While this Pryor, Okla. native has lost more than a step or two in the sport he grew to love, he hasn't forgotten some of the techniques that he perfected when judo enjoyed its greatest popularity.

"I still remember a lot of moves, such as the one arm shoulder throw," he said

is no room in the sport for overly aggressive people who use it to hurt people.

He was not interested in judo as a youth, nor was attracted to it when he enlisted in the Air Force in 1955.

"SAC (Strategic Air Command) had a judo program in 1956. Every base had judo teams," he said of the sport that thrived in the Air Force during the 1950s and 1960s.

During his career as a physical conditioning instructor, Mr. Conatzer was 'forced' to learn judo. "My boss, Raymond Korell, was a third or fourth degree black belt. He made me learn judo," he said about his assignment to Whiteman AFB.

Judo became for him part of his job description. "I evaluated bomber crews in self-defense techniques. I taught physical conditioning and unarmed combat to SAC aircrews," he said.

He initially learned judo fundamentals during a physical conditioning course at Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, Texas. They included strategies featuring the element of surprise, and takedown techniques such as foot sweeps, to throw opponents off balance. Five additional weeks of advanced training at the judo school at Stead AFB in Reno, Nev., helped prepare Mr. Conatzer for his next assignment.

"I was the base judo coach at Mildenhall Air Base, England, from 1966-1970," he said. It was there that he

earned his black belt. "I had to answer questions about judo before a board of judges," he said. The intense questioning preceded a series of demonstrations of his judo techniques tested in what the sport calls "the line up." He had to demonstrate different maneuvers while fighting ten opponents.

"It was an ego thing," he said of his motivation to earn the black belt and compete in United Kingdom and U.S. Air Force-Europe tournaments where he became a top competitor. Youthful bravado eventually gave way to maturity, wisdom and common sense as Mr. Conatzer gravitated more to teaching judo. By the 1970s, however, interest in judo began to wane. By the end of that decade the Air Force had phased it out as a base team sport.

Nevertheless, Mr. Conatzer continued to teach judo to youth in such places as Goose Bay, Labrador. After retiring from the Air Force in 1978 as a master sergeant, he resumed his interest in judo instruction while pursuing an Air Force civil service career.

Always willing to share his knowledge about the sport he describes as great, Mr. Conatzer offers advice to anyone thinking about learning judo. "You have to use a little common sense," he said, referring to choice of adversaries that may be too large or too strong to handle. "Instructors can only teach so much. You have to learn from practicing with others."

## Falcons defeat SDSU to capture first-ever Mountain West Conference road victory

By Melissa McKeown  
Air Force Academy Athletic Media Relations

Letricia Castillo scored 15 points and led the Air Force Academy women's basketball team to its first-ever road win in the Mountain West Conference, defeating San Diego State University, 48-44, Jan. 27.

The victory snapped a 28-game conference losing streak for the Falcons, which dated back to the 2002-03 season. It was also the team's first league road win since joining the Mountain West in 1999, a span of 36 games.

The first half was an intense battle, with three ties and three different lead changes. The Falcons started out hot from the field, hitting four of their first six shots, while San Diego State struggled from the field.

Castillo was especially impressive for the Falcons, scoring 11 first-half points; however, the Aztecs kept it close with their defensive pressure, forcing 15 Air Force turnovers in the opening period. Meanwhile, the Falcons dominated the boards, outrebounding the Aztecs 23-9 in the first half alone.

The second half was much of the same with two ties and four lead changes. After the Aztecs went on top, 30-27, the Falcons went on an 11-0 run to lead by 8 points. With less than a minute remaining, Air Force still held on to a 7-point lead, but committed three turnovers and four fouls in the last 47 seconds, giving San Diego State ample

opportunities to keep the Falcons winless in the conference. However, the Falcons were able to hold on, taking the 48-44 win.

Air Force's 32 turnovers were a season high, while its 51 rebounds for the game were also a season high. In addition, the Falcons grabbed 21 offensive boards, just one fewer than San Diego State's rebound total. Air Force's huge rebounding effort helped it snap its

conference losing streak.

While Castillo, who was 6-of-6 from the foul line, was the only Falcon to score in double digits, Jennifer Roesch added 7 points and six rebounds. Leading rebounders were Dawn Higginbotham and Alecia Steele with eight boards a piece.

The Falcons are 6-12 overall and 1-4 in league action. They take on Colorado State and Wyoming this weekend.



Photo by Danny Meyer

Cadet 1st Class Jennifer Roesch, co-captain of Air Force Academy women's basketball team, notched seven points and six rebounds to help the Falcons defeat San Diego State University for the team's first ever Mountain West road victory.

TAKE THE DISCOVERY'S

**SUPERBOWL  
CHALLENGE**



See page 18  
for details



# YMCA seeks judo interest from local bases

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The Young Men’s Christian Association is taking its cue from the meaning of a sport it hopes to revive in San Antonio by using gentle persuasion to coax interest among Brooks workers in judo, which in Japanese means “the gentle way.”

The former Downtown YMCA, now called the D.R. Semmes YMCA, has at least one ally at Brooks in rekindling interest in judo: Brooks Fitness Center director Roy Conatzer. Mr. Conatzer earned a black belt in judo during an era in Air Force sports history when bases fielded judo teams.

“He called me up and asked if I would let people (here) know about judo classes,” recalls Mr. Conatzer, referring to YMCA judo instructor Karl Johansen. “I didn’t know him, but I told him that I had been involved in judo,” explained the fitness center director who announced the YMCA initiative at the Brooks Sports Advisory Council’s Jan. 20 meeting. The same announcement has been made at San Antonio’s other military installations through their fitness center directors.

Flyers promoting the YMCA’s judo instruction can be obtained

through unit sports representatives or at the fitness center. Judo instruction offered at San Antonio’s YMCA is free to active duty military personnel, however, requirements for anyone interested in participating include USJI membership and being appropriately attired in the judo uniform called the gi.

Practice sessions are held on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the aerobics room at the D.R. Semmes YMCA, 903 North St. Mary’s St.

Practice sessions will be conducted by Mr. Johansen, a second degree black belt who is a USA Judo certified ‘D’ coach and local referee with 30 years of experience. Mr. Johansen’s instruction will follow the traditions of Kodokan Judo.

Founded in 1882 by Dr. Jigoro Kano, Kodokan Judo evolved from an earlier feudal Japanese fighting system called Jujutsu. Dr. Kano, President of the Tokyo-based University of Education, integrated the best techniques taken from ancient martial arts forms to create the modern sport of judo. An Olympic sport since 1964, judo teaches the principle of flexibility through application of various techniques. These techniques vary from arm bars, chokes and im-

mobilizations, to throwing and striking maneuvers. Balance, leverage and timing are fundamental to judo, characterized by its proponents as a self-defense sport.

For more information contact Mr. Johansen at 392-0364 or email [kjohansen@satx.rr.com](mailto:kjohansen@satx.rr.com). For additional information about the YMCA judo school visit <http://www.sa-school-of-judo.org>. This instruction is being held through the YMCA’s affiliation with USJI, the national judo organization whose website is <http://www.usjudo.org>.

## Discovery Editor’s SUPER BOWL CHALLENGE

Last month, I issued the College Football Bowl Prediction challenge. Since none of the contest entrants were able to make more correct picks than your beloved editor, I am offering readers a second chance. I will be predicting the outcome of the Super Bowl. Pit your prognostication skills against mine by

predicting the winner and total combined score of the big game. Among those that predict the game’s winner, closest to the actual score without going over will be declared winner. Email entries to [kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil](mailto:kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil). Predictions will be posted to the Discovery website before kick off.



## Project CHEER sponsors Halo tournament for students

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Discovery staff writer

Halo junkies can show their gaming talents in Project CHEER’s upcoming Halo tournament.

Rated the number one game of the year by Electronic Gaming Monthly, Halo has taken the gaming industry by storm. With over 3 million units of Halo sold, it is stated by MacSoftgames.com as being “one of the most critically acclaimed games ever created.”

In response to the computer game’s popularity, Project CHEER is holding a students-only Halo tournament Friday, Feb. 11, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. in the Student Activities Center. The tournament is expected to feature three Xbox’s to which four students will simultaneously battle each other on screen.

Winners will be determined by a point system where the players with the most “kills,” receive more points. Those with the most points at the end of the tournament will be declared the winners.

All students of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine are welcome to come and partake in the tournament which will be fueled by light refreshments and adrenaline pumping gaming action.

